

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. The FCC should be required to maintain the current ownership rules which are now being considered for revision. The FCC must not be allowed to give in to the interests of media giants but rather they should stand guard to prevent huge broadcast industry companies from monopolizing the media.

Studies presented by the FCC supporting total deregulation in no way tell the negative impacts of such a move. In the years since the last deregulation took effect there is a huge difference in the type and quality of news presented to the American public. Foreign news bureaus have been closed, budgets slashed and there are far fewer in-depth, probing reports into government activities. Serious reporting can still be found in some print media but what will happen when the print media is owned by CNN, FOX, or Disney? I Believe this will lead to a very limited range of views being presented.

I would also urge the FCC to hold public hearings across the nation to get a wide range of comments from a broad spectrum of people. This decision should not be made solely on the highly biased points of view of a few giant corporations with major financial interests at stake.

I ask you to safeguard the public interest by maintaining the current media ownership rules. The damage caused to our democracy will be great and far reaching if a few special interests are allowed to determine what is presented to the American people as news. We deserve better than that.

Thank you,

John Butler